

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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EDITOR

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The injunction to stop the picketing of plantations and the various other forms of intimidation used against the Japanese who want to resume work, ought, if it stands, to mark the beginning of the end of the great strike. It has been evident for weeks that the strikers were held together by fear of their leaders and of the walking delegates and soshi who do Makino's spy and police work; but now that this fear can be dispelled; now that the law fully safeguards the man who wants to earn his living in the sugar fields, there ought to be no great trouble in winning the majority of the strikers back to their jobs.

IMMIGRATION—THE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP.

One of the best features of the news from Commissioner Campbell is that the administration is willing to help Hawaii diversify its labor by recruiting more Portuguese. There were many doubts about Taft. That he had taken prejudice against the plantation system here was understood; and he was, indeed, quoted as saying that he was almost glad his original Philippine bill had failed as he did not wish such a system as ours to grow up in the Asiatic islands.

But times change and men change with them. The Presidency gives a man a wider horizon than that enjoyed by a cabinet minister. Besides President Taft has been studying the real needs and the actual status of the islands and getting better acquainted with representative Hawaiian citizens. He no longer shows a disposition to carp and is ready to do his part to secure sugar growing from the vicissitudes of the labor supply. This means much to Hawaii which is not nominated in the bond—all that comes of having the good will and confidence of the governing power.

The mission of Mr. Campbell, having a Portuguese objective, may be viewed with equanimity here. There was nothing hopeful in the Trenor program now happily abandoned; nothing but danger in the whole scheme of lezzaroni immigration. But Hawaii knows the Portuguese and has a contented population of them. It knows how to deal with these people and what to expect of them; and in the present colony it has an anchorage at which the newcomers will naturally moor. With the aid of the Federal government, exercised through consuls, a large Portuguese immigration should be had.

FORMALIN FOR FLIES.

The fly situation has not been serious on this island; though in certain localities, not far from stables, it has been and is annoying. How to combat the nuisance and not suffer from nearly as bad a one, such as fly-paper, is a question which science has lately answered by advising the use of a little formalin in water which the flies drink.

Alexander Hill, writing to Nature from that fly-cursed spot, Mentone, says that if two teaspoonful of formalin (40 per cent. formaldehyde) is added to a soup plate filled with water, the flies that drink of it will die. The drug does not attract flies of itself; flies go to pure water as quickly as to that containing formalin; but if all other sources of supply are cut off, the tinctured water will catch all the flies that are thirsty. Writing of his own experiment Mr. Hill says: "Some die in the water; many fall in the immediate neighborhood of the plate; others succumb on window-sill or floor. As the result of leaving a single plateful of the solution on the kitchen table (I am writing in the south of France) hundreds of dead flies are each day swept up from the floor. Formalin water is free from the gruesome associations of fly-papers and other traps which hold their struggling victims. It may even be turned to ornamental uses. A wire cage placed in the center of the dish may be crowned with flowers, which flourish equally as well, with some slight but interesting changes in tint, in dilute formalin as in pure water."

Formalin is easy to get; the method of applying it is simple; and its general use where flies are common, would seem to be a measure of great sanitary value as well as one to secure comfort in the home.

THE OUTLOOK FOR MEXICAN RUBBER.

So many island people are interested in the outlook for Mexican rubber that anything official on the subject will be read with general interest. A copy of the Monthly Consular and Trade Reports which reached this paper yesterday contains from the hand of the American Consul at Vera Cruz a short report prepared by a rubber grower, whom the Consul vouches for as "one best qualified to give the facts." This authority says:

The tapping was begun in October and completed the first week in February. The rubber is now well dried, except the last few sheets, and it weighs 590 pounds. This is practically the same as last year's product, but that was secured by two tapplings, while this is from one only. This year we secured about 75 pounds of our crop from young trees never before tapped; the balance represents about 1 2/3 ounces per tree throughout our 10-year-old fields. The output is not particularly encouraging, as it is 8 per cent. less than last year's average, while we made this season 50 per cent. more cuts to the tree in our single tapping than we did in both tapplings last year. The thirty trees gave 50 per cent. more latex than last year, but this was offset by our losses among the backward trees, and the latex proved to be thinner than last year, as equal units of liquid measure dried down to less rubber. This was due partly to tapping higher on the trees, where the latex is necessarily poorer, and possibly steady tapping once or twice a year, for several years may have affected temporarily the latex reserves in the trees. In view of our tapping record to date, I do not know whether to expect an increased, diminished, or stationary yield the coming season. We went into this business with our eyes open and know that neither we nor any one else had much of any practical knowledge of the proposition. Our education has been and still is progressing as rapidly and with as little expense as anybody engaged in the Mexican rubber planting field. I have just received a letter from Tabasco, the only important rubber district in Mexico that I am not personally acquainted with. This letter is from a personal friend who recently took a position on a Tabasco rubber property, and he writes me detailed data as to size of trees of various ages, tapping yield, etc. I therefore repeat now the opinion that our trees grow as rapidly as any elsewhere in Soconusco, and our tapping results compare favorably with those in Soconusco or any other part of Mexico.

The present indications appear to be that this species of rubber tree can not be profitably tapped more than once a year, and this fact taken in connection with the comparatively small yield per tapping, at least during the first ten years of the tree's life, indicates that our outlook is not what we believed it to be when we were paying for our stock. Our only course now is to hold on and avoid any further investment here until we learn when we may depend upon a material increase in the yield of our trees.

The Consul himself adds that "There does not seem to be much outlook for Mexican rubber so long as present prices prevail. Some favored places can make a fair profit on their actual costs, but when rubber falls to fifty cents or less there is nothing in it for the stockholders. It is reported that within a few years the Far East will have 60,000,000 Para trees producing from one to three pounds each per annum of rubber, superior to the best Mexican, and if this does not break the market, planting here will continue. It is stated on good authority that the Mexican planters get more rubber per tapping than the Para people and that the tapping cost is lower per pound of rubber produced, but they can tap only once a year while the Para people can tap many times a year. The Mexican planter loses because of his greater capital invested, more than he gains in lower tapping cost and because he must have from ten to twenty times as many trees to produce the same amount of rubber as the Para planter, so that the odds are against him, even if he can produce Mexican trees for half or a quarter of what the Para tree costs, which is doubtful."

The immense future production of rubber noted in the paragraph above, though discouraging to Mexico, need not be so to Hawaii, the rubber product of which has the benefit of the protective tariff. The only doubtful question is whether the higher cost of labor here will tend to equalize the difference.

Formosa is doing well in the canned pineapple trade. In the Monthly Consular and Trade Reports for June, Consul Deichman, of Tamsui, states that the pineapple "is, perhaps, the most important and valuable of all the fruits

of Formosa" and that the building of railroads and canneries has made it a profitable crop. "The largest cannery," he states, "is at Hozan, in Hozan prefecture, and was established there in April, 1901, by the late Baron Kodama. Its output has been steadily increasing and in the past five years has almost quadrupled. In 1904, 94,400 tins were sent out; in 1905, 98,000 tins; in 1906, 226,000 tins; in 1907, 330,000 tins; in 1908, 350,000 tins." It will interest Hawaiian growers to know that the Hozan cannery extracts the fiber from the long leaf of the pineapple which is used, to the extent of 75,000 pounds, in the manufacture of grass cloth.

There is no let-up in the defensive preparations here despite the cutting down of Federal estimates in all departments. Work preparatory to gun-mounting goes steadily on and a cantonment for the garrison at Fort Ruger initiates its building program today. Even as respects the shortened drydock at Pearl Harbor there is a chance that, when completed, it will follow the original lines. The fact is noticeable that no orders are foreshadowed for the return of the local battalion of marines to the ships. We are keeping what we have and getting more; and on every side is the hum of martial preparation. While the American Gibraltar can hardly be said to be taking shape, as yet, its foundations are being securely laid.

The Marquis de Gallifet, who has just died at Paris, was one of the most gallant military figures of the third French empire. He was a polished courtier before the German war, though he incurred the ill-will of Eugenie by coming to court in an amusing disguise; and in the struggle with Prussia he made a high reputation. There were knightly qualities in de Gallifet which surrounded him with an atmosphere of chivalry and romance. A General in the 50's, he lived to lag superfluous on the stage for many a long year.

President Taft will visit the coast, and as Hawaii is a part of it, according to the shipping laws, he ought not to overlook it. Probably he could get back if he booked far enough ahead.

The lions in Roosevelt's path are killing natives. It's probably mere practice for the big biting match to come.

The South Italian labor at Glace Bay is behaving as it does everywhere else.

DECISIONS BY SUPREME COURT

The important question of county liability was dealt with yesterday in a decision handed down by the Supreme Court, sustaining the verdict of \$7500 damages that was granted to the plaintiff in the well known case of Kumazo Matsumura against the county of Hawaii. The syllabus of the decision states that "advantage cannot be taken of an irregularity in the drawing of trial jurors unless it clearly appears that the party objecting was injured," and that "a county is liable for injury to private property caused by the negligent act, done in the course of their employment, of road employees engaged to repair a public highway, even though the act was not authorized or was expressly forbidden by the county or was in itself a trespass on the land of third parties other than the plaintiff."

A long and very carefully thought out decision by Justice Perry, in which he refers to "Wigmore on Evidence," and other expert authorities gives the decision against the City and County of Honolulu.

Mrs. Atcherley Loses. Another Supreme Court decision handed down yesterday gave it against Mrs. Mary Atcherley, in her appeal from the Circuit Court against W. P. Jarrett and A. N. Campbell, trustee. The decision reverses the order for an injunction granted to stay an execution.

Chief Justice Hartwell says in part in his decision: "Equity will not, under the circumstances stated in the opinion, enjoin an execution sale of land in order to avoid the sacrifice which would result from a sale pending litigation concerning the title, nor on the ground, which was available and had been adjudicated in the action at law, that the land was claimed by the defendant to be exempt from sale on execution."

The Williams Estate. The third decision handed down by the Supreme Court yesterday was on a question reserved by Judge Robinson in the suit for an accounting by L. L. McCandless against W. R. Castle, trustee under the will of Joshua R. Williams. The question reserved was whether the demurrers should be sustained. It is answered by the court

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45-inch all-wool Scotch Plaids, 85c yard.
36-inch Summer Suitings, black and white stripes and checks, 40c yard.
\$1.25 Grey Checks, all-wool, 75c yard.
44-inch White Mohair with broken black checks, all-wool, 75c yard.

Ehlers
WHOSE SALES ARE SALES.

in the negative. A. G. M. Robertson represented the plaintiff, and A. L. Castle and W. A. Greenwell the defendants. The law of the case is thus set forth in the syllabus:

"An equitable life interest in the income of land, the legal title of which is held by a trustee subject to division upon an event still in the future, is alienable and its assignment will be enforced in equity."

"A partial assignment of such an interest, made without the assent of but with notice to the trustees, is good in equity."

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